PROFILE

CHIFUMI OCHI
■生年月日■
11月3日
■血液型■
A型
■所在地■
神奈川県出身・在住
■好き■
朝寝わらず特撮＆スロレス中毒
■嫌い■
ケーキ・チョコレート
■近況■
仕事場の犬2匹増やしました…(汗)
http://gracie.milky.web.net/

越智千文

CHIFUMI OCHI

2

breath ブレス

breath ブレス 2

CHIFUMI OCHI

越智千文

KAIOHSHA

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雑誌 50951-17
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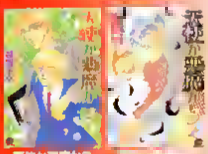
定価 610円 本体581円

ナンパから始まった棉と新の恋
セックスを機から否定してかかる新に
仲直りを迫え、奴隷のように扱っては
生行為を強要していた棉たったが、
新のお思いがなく不器用な面にふれて
わだかまりを解き始める
そんなとき、棉のセフレであり
新の双子の弟である
天が新の様子がおかしいことに
気付いてしまい、

越智千文の本
好評発売中！

breath



天使か悪魔か2

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breath

CHIFUMI OCHI

breath

breath ——— 7
birdcage ——— 183

◇今までのあらすじ◇

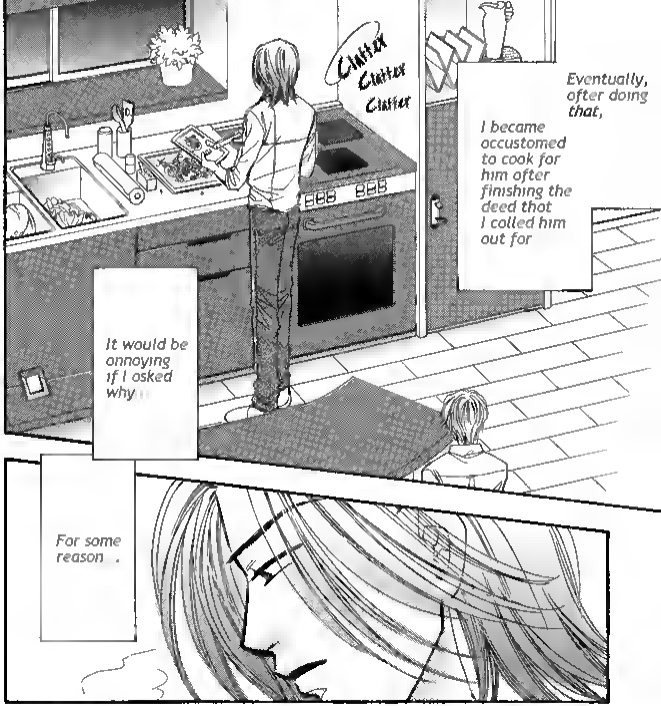
天（てんし）
櫛のセフレ。
新の弟。

新（あらた）
2丁目のバーで櫛にナンパされた美青年。

柳 浩志（やなぎ こうし）
大学生。特定の恋人をもたない主義の同性愛者。

2丁目のバーで、かなり酔った様子の美青年をナンパした櫛。一晩で何度も抱かれた櫛は、その直後、酔いが覚めた顔に、男とたんに、気持ち悪い、と言われ、逃げられてしまう。ところが数日後セフレの天の口利きで彼と再会。天は櫛と天の双子の兄・新だった。天にバラすと脅して、ドレイのように呼び出しては、新の買春を強要する櫛に、新は仕方なくホテル代を払おうとするので、そのうち櫛は自宅に呼び出すようになる。

食事をまともにとろうとしない新に櫛が食事を作るようになってから、今までのように体を重ねるだけの関係ではなくなりつつある二人だったが…。

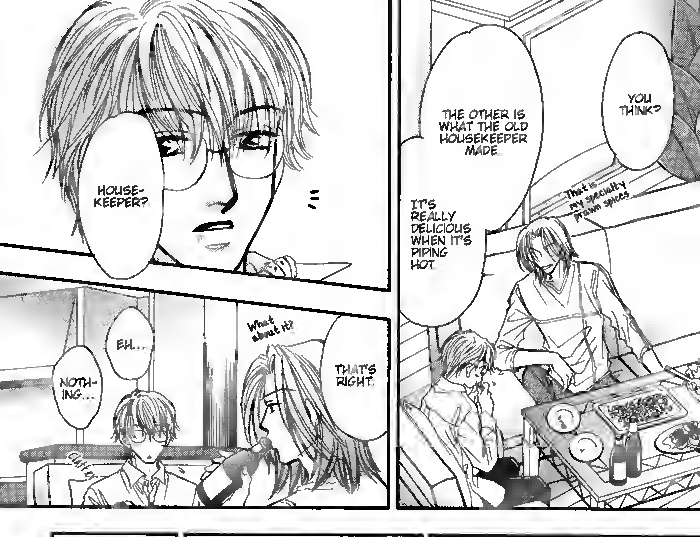

Clatter Clatter Clatter
Eventually, after doing that,
I became accustomed to cook for him after finishing the deed that I called him out for
It would be annoying if I asked why
For some reason .

breath
Sorry for the wait
Volume 2 is finally out
You're slow
sorry

Clatter
HERE, TAKE THIS OVER THERE
Yes, for some reason
OK
If I mostly leave him alone, this Kirishimo Arata guy would go the entire day without eating a thing
Can't have this guy become anemic in front af me again..
Clank
SHUT
I don't like that at all.
SMEXY BASTARDS
http://smexybastards.ning.com

NO, I'M FINE
OH?
sip
clink!
YOU GONNA DRINK... TOO?
POP
GLUG

Take that dish.
OK
That's all it is
IT'S SO GOOD, TOO
AH
THIS IS DELICIOUS...


HOUSE-KEEPER?
EH...
NOTH-ING...
What about it?
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS WHEN IT'S PIPING HOT.
THE OTHER IS WHAT THE OLD HOUSEKEEPER MADE.
YOU THINK?
That is my specialty Prawn sauce.

WHAT?
IS THAT SO ODD?
THE ONLY ROOM I CLEAN IN THIS PLACE IS MY OWN
I also only make simple meals.
IF I DON'T HAVE HER COME THE HOUSE WILL GROW MOLD WITHIN A MONTH
TURNS OUT YOU REALLY DO.
EVEN THOUGH I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE A HOUSEKEEPER SINCE THIS HOUSE IS SO BIG
Wa-!

NO,
IT'S NOT THAT
PER SAY
UM...
I HAD WONDERED ABOUT IT BEFORE BUT
WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS...?
I THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T LIVE IN THIS PLACE BY YOURSELF
BUT THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANOTHER PERSON LIVING HERE
I WONDERED WHY...
HA HA HA
YOU'RE REALLY OBSERVANT, AREN'T YOU?
YES.
UM...
AH..!

SORRY,
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS
KU KU KU KU KU
YOU'RE EASILY DRAGGED INTO THINGS, AREN'T YOU?
HUH?
THERE'S NOTHING THAT I NEED TO HIDE. NOR IS THERE ANY REASON FOR ME TO NOT WANT TO TELL YOU.
BOTH MY PARENTS ARE AROUND
THEY'RE JUST SO BUSY THAT THEY HARDLY EVER COME HOME
DON'T COME HOME ?
Yeah !
I PROBABLY SEE THEM MAYBE ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH?
They work together you see.

SMEXY★BASTARDS
http://smexybs.hoppo.net

WELL,
I MIGHT AS WELL SAY THAT I DO LIVE ALONE
HM?
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?
UH
TELL ME
NO
I JUST CAN'T REALLY IMAGINE THAT...
IN THIS BIG HOUSE...
HAVING A HOUSE-KEEPER...
BUT YOU'RE ALL ALONE...
WOULDN'T IT BE LONELY?

I DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT STUFF
I'VE BEEN LIVING LIKE THIS FOR YEARS
Though my parents don't do come back more often when I was back in junior high.
LONELY OR NOT
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU SAYING?
SMIRK

THERE'S NO PROBLEM BRINGING GUYS HOME
AND SO...
BEING ALONE IS ALSO A GOOD EXPERIENCE
THERE ARE NO INCONVENIENCES
NO ONE INTERFERES WITH ME EITHER

CLATTER
(blush)
HUH...?
KU KU KU KU KU
YOU KNOW...

I'M LYING
EVEN IF I PICK UP A GUY,
I DON'T BRING THEM BACK TO MY HOUSE
HUH?
HM?
NO MORE BEER?
gASP
BUT,
BUT
IT'S A DRAG
IF THEY KNEW WHERE I LIVED WHO KNOWS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THERE WAS TROUBLE
BEER
THE BEER

SMEXY☆BASTARDS
http://smexybs.moppol.net

I DON'T BRING THEM BACK TO MY HOUSE
Then why...
Why did you bring me...?
Clatter clatter
I think there is other stuff!
Just a while ago,
you were speaking to me normally,
you let down your guard
How about here?
(This is the wine cellar.)
Then, if you call me your slave,
You make me food when I collapse from anemia.
Why

JUST WHAT IS UP
WITH THIS GUY —?
I don't understand.
Mariner's wine collection
...

BEEP
WHAT?
CLICK...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

KIRISHIMA-KUN? THAT'S RARE.
HOW TRUE.

WHAT'S WRONG, KIRISHIMA-KUN?
UM,
NOTHING AT ALL. I JUST TYPED THE WRONG KEY.
PERSON IN CHARGE

I'm sorry
HAA.
IF YOU ARE TIRED, HOW ABOUT DRINKING SOME COFFEE?
Ah, yes
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE A CHANGE OF PACE NOW AND THEN.
UNTIL WE HAVE TO GET STARTED ON THAT PROJECT, DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
AH THAT
HOW IS IT GOING?
THERE WAS A MISTAKE MADE BY THE OTHER END.
ARAI WAS ANGRY AND TRIED TO NEGOTIATE I ASSUME IT REACHED BY NOW.
Using the wrong materials they better not say anything when having enough substances
I GUESS SO.
THROUGHOUT THE DAY WE DIDN'T GET MUCH DATA BY COMPARISON. IT'S BAD
Bring it today Bring it now HURRY UP!!
YES
THANKS TO YOU THOUGH, I THINK WE CAN DO A FASTER JOB.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE A BREAK NOW
that's right

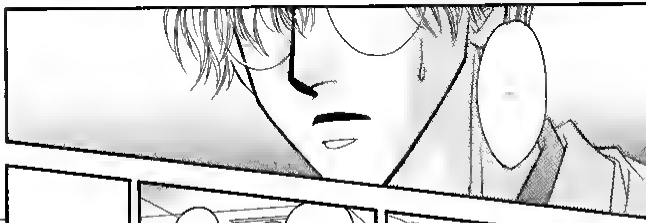
© TEXT-BASE ARTS
http://smexybs.roppol.net

It isn't wrong to say that I made a mistake
It's not good for those around me to think that I'm tired
What am I doing?
Geez...
.....
That is... But I've been feeling a bit out of it
I feel...
thump
BRRRRR
Message Received
flip
BRRRRR
For some reason,
I can't be calm

Why?
Why does this stir me up?
close
AH...
thump
TITLE
no subject
MESSSAGE
Today
8 00pm
menu
IT'S DECIDED
YOU'LL BE MY SLAVE FROM NOW ON
YOU PISS ME OFF
HEY,
YOU SHOULD START EATING

The first time in my life that I've met someone that I can't understand?
Is this the first time...?
It's a lie...
!!!
Oh no,
I better go back
Ack!
throw
PAPER CUP
Far now! first things first
I need ta finish up work accurately
Yeah
<sfx> Patatata Running sound

IT'S NOT HERE
ANYWAYS, I WILL CONTACT THEM AGAIN.
PLEASE DO.
YES.
THAT WAS 3 HOURS AGO.
I'M SORRY.
WASN'T IT SUPPOSED TO BE DELIVERED BY TODAY?
HEY, WHAT'S HAPPENING TO AYA?
FUNE
FUNE
FUNE
FUNE
I'M REALLY SORRY!
YOU... THIS IS REALLY TOUGH ON US!
There was an accident along the way. I'm sorry!
sorry sorry
AH.
He's here
SORRY!
I'M LATE!
(SFX) Petapetapeta: Running sound



SMEXY BASTARDS
http://smexybs.iroppo.net

He's late
tic
tac
tic
toc
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
ANGER
ANGER
ANGER
Tap
It's already an hour past the designated time
HE INTENDS TO BACK OUT TODAY...!?
TAP!
It couldn't be

He's always right on time
...No, he's not the type to do that...
Then what..?
It's something else
Maybe he can't call...
press
press
There isn't anything that I haven't seen at this point
He didn't
ANGER
ANGER
He didn't send me any mail...
ANGER
ANGER...

Beep.
Be...
Rrrrring
Rrrrring
Rrrrring
TSK
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...
YOU ARE BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE MESSAGE SYSTEM
click

close
<sfx> sound of yanagi closing his cellphone (flip phone)
ZA
SLAM!
rustle

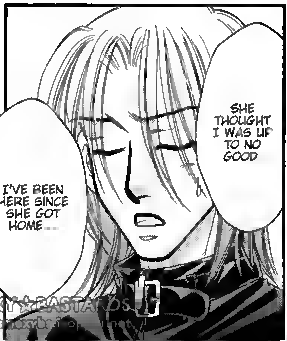
BY TEXT☆BASTARD
http://smexybs.roppo.net

We were so busy
I could not do ony-thing obout thot mail
Now
If I go now, it'll be o hassle
So would o phone coll or mail
I think
.Splash
splash.
What should I do?
I barely monoged to get by today
I really couldn't do ony thing today
If I soy that, would he under stond?
CLANK.
CLANK

No, I should worry more about when to say that ..
Really
What's the best thing to do?

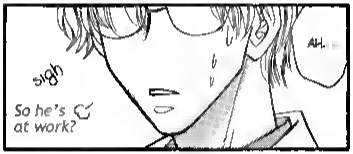
AH
...UM...
YOU DIDN'T CONTACT ME SO I DIDN'T KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENED...

ACK!
EH?
NO,
I WASN'T HERE THE WHOLE TIME
I THOUGHT IT WAS WEIRD FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO NOT BE THERE
UMM.
I SORRY
SOMETHING HAPPENED AT WORK AND I HAD TO WORK OVERTIME
IT HAPPENED SO SUDDENLY, THERE WASN'T ANY TIME TO CALL
OH,
SO THAT'S IT



SMEXY CASTLE
http://smexycastle.net

GASP
Huh...? Is Takoshi... Here..?
Umm...
THUMP
EH?
CAN WE TALK INSIDE?
BUT SINCE I'M HERE
HOW ANNOYING
TCK


sigh
So he's at work?
AH...

BUT...
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'D BE BACK...
But...
THE DAY BEFORE
I'M TAKING A DAY OFF!

Does he work today? Or...
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM
TEN IS PROBABLY OUT AT THE SHOP NOW...

THAT'S OK.
EVEN IF HE SEES THIS ON HIS WAY HOME,
I'LL JUST SAY I WAS WAITING FOR HIM.
WHAT?!
ACK
SLAM!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT
LOSING HIM LIKE THAT
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE..!
ANGER

IS IT SO UNREASONABLE OF ME?
IS THAT SUCH A BAD THING?
sigh
ARGUING LIKE THIS HERE
IS EVEN WORST I THINK
...
DID YOU...
rap...
FORGET THAT YOU'RE MY SLAVE?

IF I ORDER YOU TO LET ME IN, COULD YOU DO IT?
YOU AGREED THAT YOU WOULDN'T "LET TAKASHI FIND OUT ABOUT US."
ANGER
YOU!!

SHIT!
FINE

IF YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO FIND OUT SO BADLY
YOU CAN JUST SPEND YOUR LIFE FLIRTING WITH YOUR OWN BROTHER.
LATER
step
step
step
step

OPEN...
LIM...
SORRY
WE WERE TOO LOUD
HE SMOKED A LOT. IF YOU DON'T CLEAN IT UP,
YOU'LL GET YELLED AT BY THE LANDLORD
SLAM!

I'VE BEEN HERE...
SINCE SHE GOT HOME
UM
YOU DIDN'T CONTACT ME SO I DIDN'T KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENED
Why?

Why am I...
So affected by it?
...SHIT
I FORGOT THE UMBRELLA
THIS IS ANNOYING
GEEZ
click
click
click
CLANG
DAMN
For a while now...
I haven't been able to calm down...

SEXY☆BASTARDS
from sexybastroppe.net

YANAGI...
-KUN...
Haa...
YOU...
...
I DON'T NEED AN UMBRELLA
I'M GOING HOME BY TAXI
THEN...
NEVER MIND THE UMBRELLA
I....
SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING HOME SOON?

I DON'T WANT HIM TO FIND OUT BUT...
I'M NOT SURE WHY I'M DOING THIS.
AND...
IF TEN SAW THIS, IT'D BE TROUBLE.
YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO KNOW RIGHT?
What should I say?
BUT...
NO, I DON'T...

What should I say to make him understand...?
...How should I say?
...
ぎゅっ

COME.

ANNOUNCEMENT (FYI):

SB Group Status: We are still on hiatus, but will gradually start releasing.

SB Active Project: The only project we'll be continuing is "breath". We may do 1 more other manga.

SB IRC Channel: Our channel #smexy-sweet has been deactivated. We will no longer be accessing IRC.

SB Project Downloads: Our releases will always be able for download at: http://smexybs.ironpon1.net

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translator
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http://sexybe iroppoi net

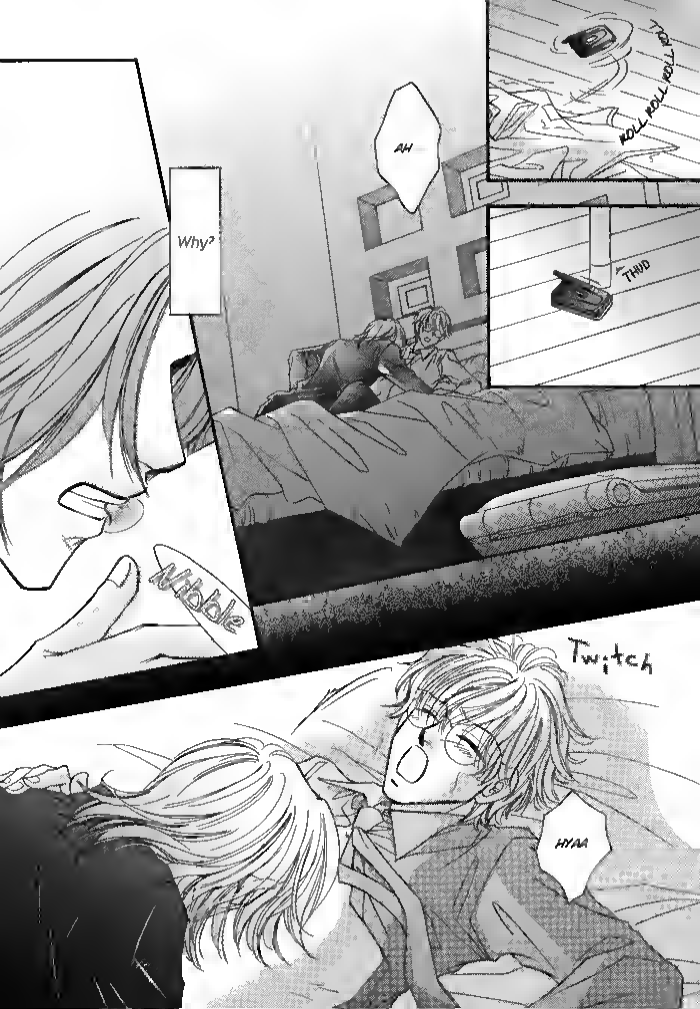
breath

breath

Always
I kept thinking about it and I just couldn't get the words out
There are so many things I've wanted to say
I didn't know how to say them
How do I say them well?
The things I want to say are stuck in my throat

"COME."
I just can't convey them
splash.

Even now,
I don't know how to convey them
TAXI
But
I've pursued it...
rustle...


ROLL ROLL ROLL
THUD
AH
Why?
Wobble
Twitch
HYAA

SMEXY★BASTARDS
http://smexybastrappa.net

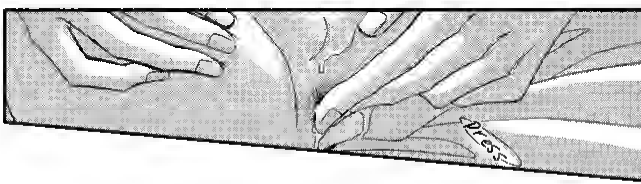
TSK
...!
NNH...
N...
NH
clatter

HAA...
N...
...N
THIS...IS PAINFUL
NG!!
I CAN'T...
NNGH!!
HA...
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

WHY SO SUDDENLY?
NO, IT'S PAINFUL...
...WAI...
WELL.
I WONDER WHY...
rustle

I, DON'T KNOW EITHER
NH
CREAK
Why...
NN...GH
AH...

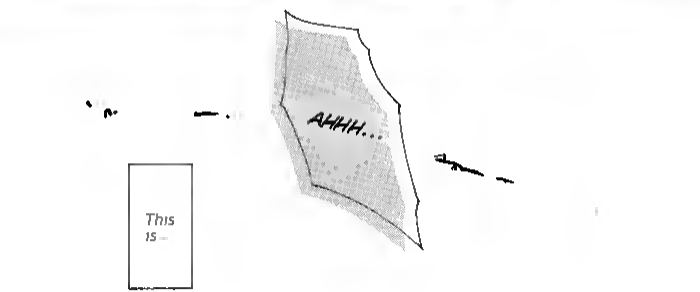
SMEXY☆BASTARDS
http://smexybs.iroppo.net



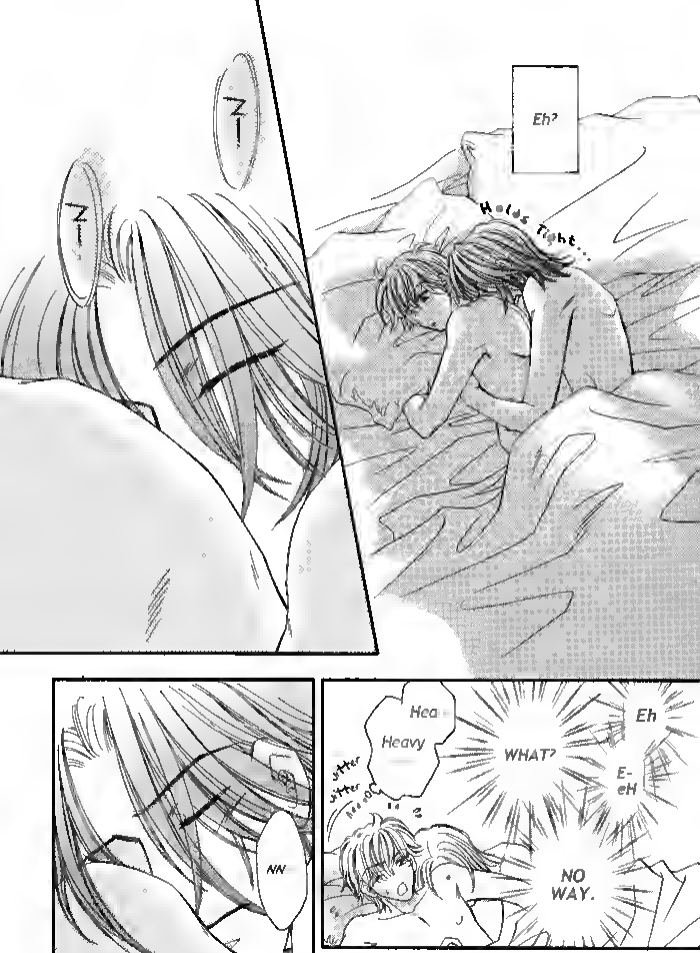
If he asked me I wouldn't be able to answer...

I probably won't get an answer if I ask...

But...
HAA
HAA
HAA
thrust
thrust
thrust
HAH—
AH


AHHH...
This is—

(E/N) Arata repeats the sentence [This is...]
This is—
Z
—
Some thing is— Heavy..
NH
rustle


Zi
Zi
Eh?
Holds tight...
NN
Hea
Heavy
Jitter
Jitter
WHAT?
Eh
E-
eH
NO
WAY.

http://smexybs.iroppoi.net

I see_

Could it be_

That words are not necessary?

chirp

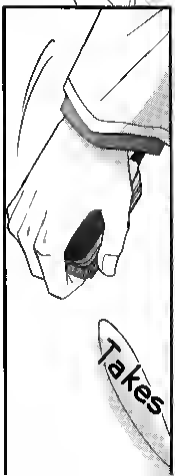
chirp

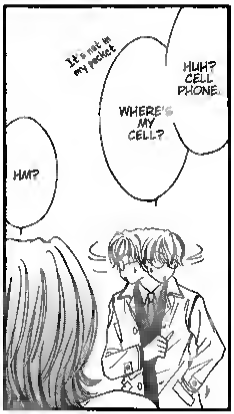
chirp

...IT'S MORNING !?
swish
RISE
...HA!
clatter
Fu
...
THANK GOODNESS.
...IT'S 8:30
I'M LATE ...
THE OFFICE
WHAT TIME IS IT?
NO WAY!
panic
panic

WH-WHAT?
HM?
NOTHING, YOU'RE KINDA DARING IN THE MORNING
If I go home and change, I could probably still make it without being late...
WHA, WHA-WHA...
BLUUSH
rustle
HERE, YOUR SHIRT.
HEY, WON'T YOU BE LATE?
Stark-Naked
HA!

TH
THANKS
AND NECKTIE AND...
PANTS AND...
YOUR UNDERWEAR
B
I U..
..S H~
~UH
U-uh...
UH...
er
er
er
AH,
HURRY UP AND CHANGE.
EH
IT'S ALREADY 40 MINUTES PAST.
AL-READY!?





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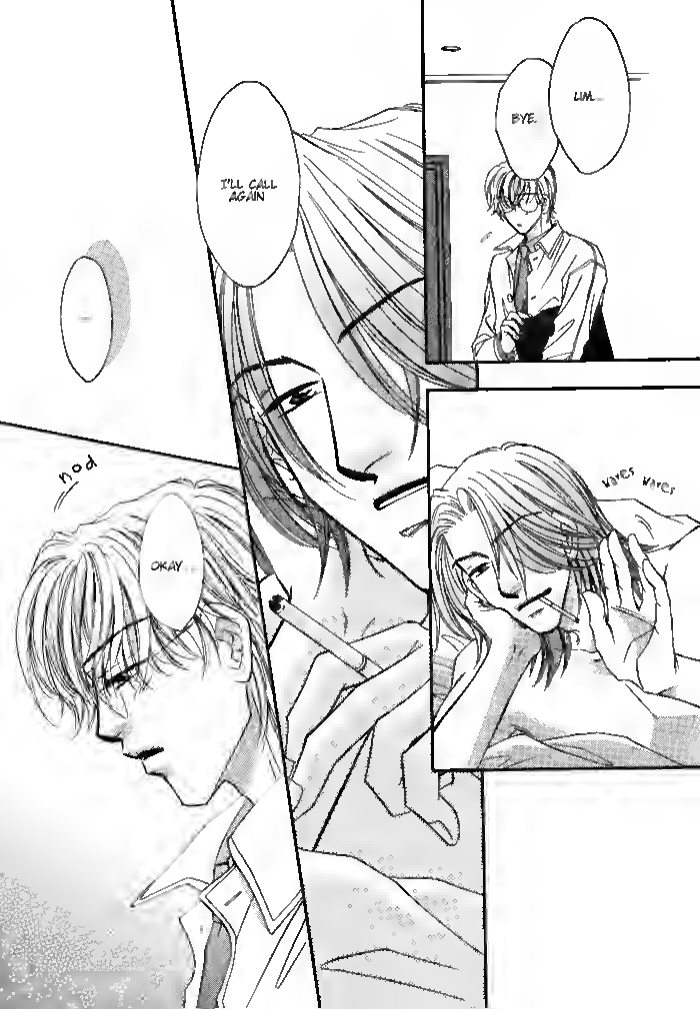
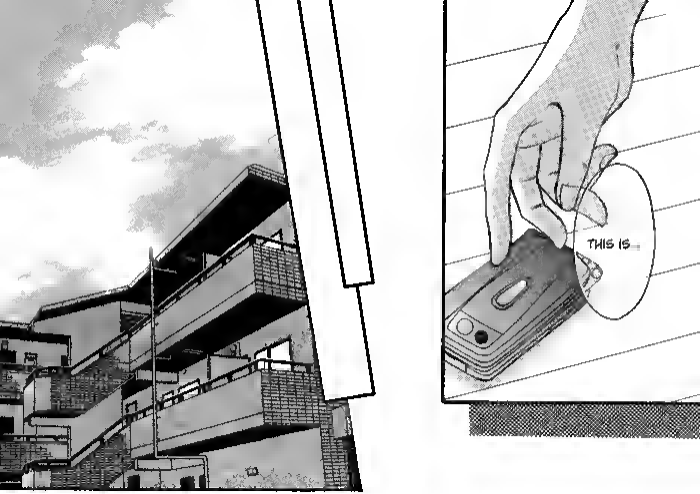

UM...
BYE.
I'LL CALL AGAIN
...
nod
OKAY
waves
wave

SHUT
RUN RUN RUN RUN RUN...
sigh
pfft
His face was so funny
KU KU KU KU KU
He turns red...
He gets angry...

What is this feeling...?
Did my feelings change?
clench
Or...
Hnh?



<sfx> Running sound

http://smexybs.roppo.net

silence..
It's ok.
clink!
He has a night job
After work, he usually comes home before 8
creak
It's ok
ha
Gasp
I shouldn't
This is no time to be relieved
For now, I better clean it up
Then

(sfx) chari chari chari music beat (headphones)

♪ CHAN
Clank
...
OPEN
ARATA?
ARATA?
ARE YOU STILL HERE?

I AM BACK
WEIRD WHY ARE YOU STILL AROUND?
DID YOU OVER-SLEEP?
SHUT
WEL WELCOME BACK
AH...
TAKASHI

LAST NIGHT, I WAS DOING OVERTIME UNTIL LATE
I OVER-SLEPT
YES
UH-HUH

THANK YOU
AT LEAST DRINK SOME VEGETABLE JUICE ON THE WAY
YEAH.
UH,
Probably didn't eat it
AND BREAKFAST?

STEADY LAST LOVE
http://sm.exybs.ropponet

ARATA!
YOUR PHONE IS RINGING...
Arata's cell phone?
flip
Incoming call
ARATA
This.. isn't his..?

HELLO?
BEEP
—AH
SORRY. IT'S ME

ANNOUNCEMENT (FYI):

SB Group Status: We are still on hiatus, but will gradually start releasing.

SB Active Project: The only project we'll be continuing is "breath". We may do 1 more other manga.

SB IRC Channel: Our channel #smexy-sweet has been deactivated. We will no longer be accessing IRC.

SB Project Downloads: Our releases will always be able for download at: http://smexybs.ironpon1.net

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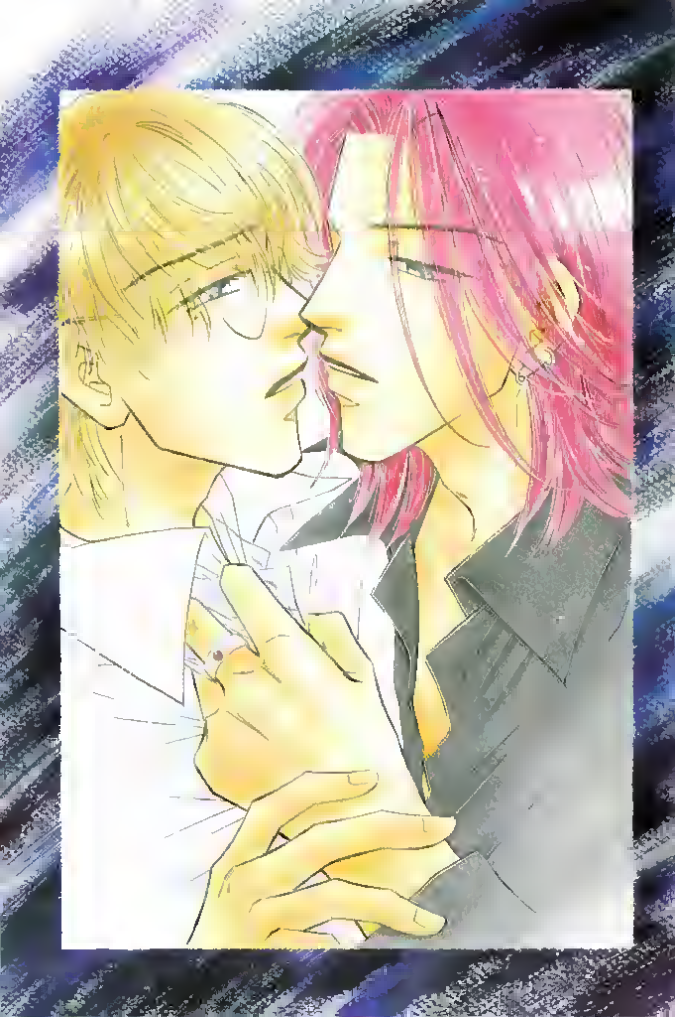
vol.2
breath



breath

clatch
Jasp!
snap
You there?
Hello?
Arata... san?

?
?
HELLO?
HELLO OOO?
ANY-BODY THERE?
WHAT THE-?
click
...
...
...

YOU MIXED UP OUR CELL PHONES AND BROUGHT MINE HOME WITH YOU.
I JUST REALIZED NOW~
HEY
SORRY, IT'S ME
fssx

Kirishima Brothers
I'm on a campaign for longer eyelashes! (Laughs) Seriously though the original picture was too bland so I thought I'd spice it up some

This phone...
HOW...
DID THIS GET HERE?
This belongs to Yanagi-kun!
I must've accidentally taken the wrong one when I was changing this morning
gasp!
EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, ARATA?
gulp
badump
Oh my god!

NOTHING.
I'm not you going to sleep?
TAKASHI? WHAT ARE YOU DOING THERE?
?
...
I HEARD YOUR CELL PHONE RINGING.

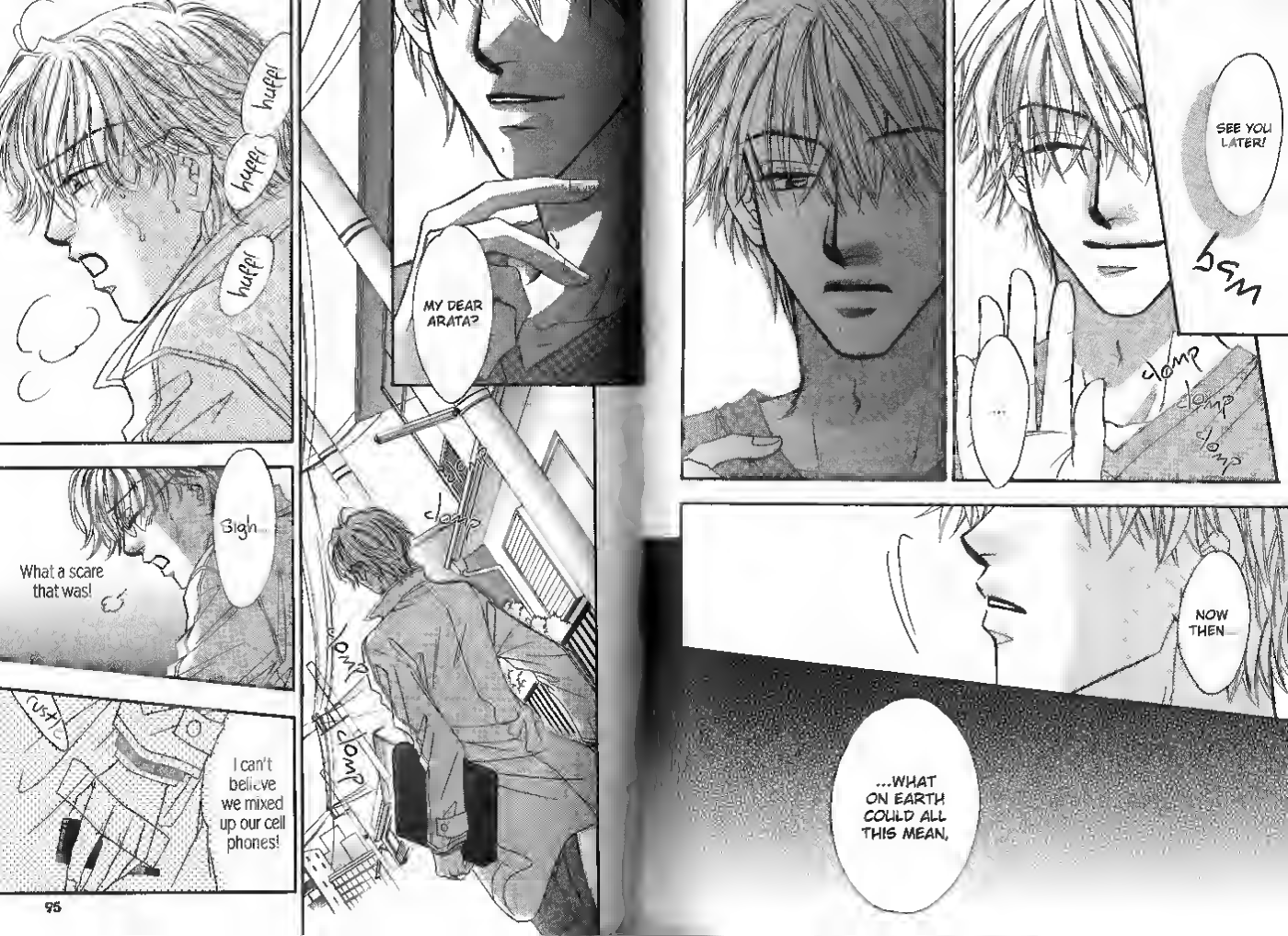
WHEN DID YOU GET A NEW PHONE?
WHAT?

At this hour?
A PHONE CALL?
HUH?
OH, I SEE.
WHO COULD IT BE?
BEATS ME.
BUT, ARATA,

I WAS GOING TO BRING IT TO THE BATHROOM,
BUT THEY HUNG UP BEFORE I COULD.

I'M SURE YOUR COWORKER'S GOING TO NEED HIS CELL PHONE BACK.
OH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT IT AS SOON AS I GET TO THE OFFICE
YOU...
YOU THINK SO?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO MAKE SUCH A SILLY MISTAKE.
YUP!
OOPS!
I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT WORK!
It's dreadly so late!
TAKE CARE.
I WILL!
SORRY, BUT I REALLY HAVE TO GO!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S NOT YOURS?
WELL...
I SEE.
I WAS JUST SURPRISED BECAUSE IT'S NOT MINE.
ER...
THIS?
OH!
SEE, DURING OVERTIME, THIS HUGE STACK OF FILES FELL OVER ON THE DESK NEXT TO ME.
IT MIXED UP ALL OF MY STUFF WITH HIS, SO...
THAT MUST'VE BEEN WHEN I TOOK IT.
SOME-
HOW I
M-MUST'
...ACCI-
DENTALLY SWITCHED WITH SOMEBODY'S YESTERDAY AT THE OFFICE.
ER...


huff!
huff!
huff!
MY DEAR ARATA?
clomp
clomp
clomp
clomp
Sigh...
What a scare that was!
ust
I can't believe we mixed up our cell phones!
SEE YOU LATER!
bam
...
clomp
clomp
clomp
NOW THEN...
...WHAT ON EARTH COULD ALL THIS MEAN,

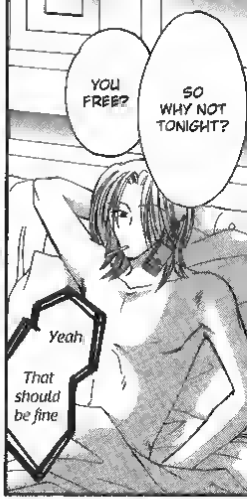
I CALLED YOU UP BEFORE WHEN I NOTICED.
RIGHT. I THINK YOU GOT CUT OFF.
Was that it?
ER, LOOK I SEEM TO HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE
Yeah I know
Incoming Call ARATA
Jo/t
I'd better get his back to him, and fast!
Grip
Takashi might think something's up.
OH!
beep
OH
Hey, it's me.
YES?
--HI.
YEAH
I AGREE
pfff
I THINK IT'S BEST WE GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
So, what do we do now?
Whatever. It's cool

bep
SEE YOU LATER THEN!
FINE
Phew
At least that's settled.

-gonna be late!
Crap! I'm really
But that's not all I have to worry about!

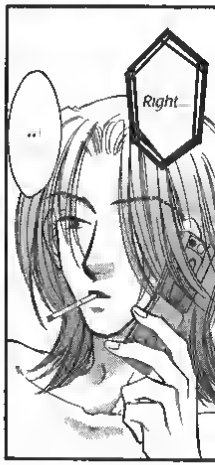
THEN JUST COME BY MY PLACE WHEN YOU CAN.

THERE MIGHT BE MORE WORK AT THE OFFICE BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY,
SO I CAN'T SET A TIME JUST YET.
Okay.
splish


SO WHY NOT TONIGHT?
YOU FREE?
Yeah.
That should be fine

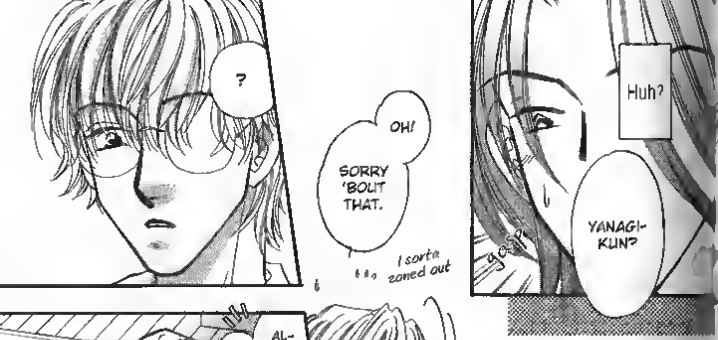
blush
Wha-?

IF ANYTHING COMES UP, CALL ME THIS TIME, OKAY?


...!
Right.

I can never tell what's going to come up with you
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THIS TIME"?
...
Ugh

YEAH, GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...
But still
I-I WAS IN A HURRY!
PLUS, THEY'RE THE SAME COLOR!
PLUS, THEY DON'T HAVE ANY STRAPS
blUUUUsh
THAT WAS BECAUSE...
Good
I didn't have to stay late for work, and I got my cell phone back
rustle rustle
...
THANK YOU.
GOOD
AND THIS ONE'S YOURS
clunk
HERE YOU GO
YOU'RE A LOT MORE FORGETFUL THAN I EXPECTED
EX-CUSE ME?
I MEAN, WHO MISTAKES SOMEONE ELSE'S CELL PHONE FOR HIS OWN?
HEY!
STRAPS?
nod
EVERYONE HAS SOME SORT OF STRAP, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY...
HUH. YOU'RE RIGHT.


?
OH!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT.
I sort'a zoned out
Huh?
YANAGI-KUN?

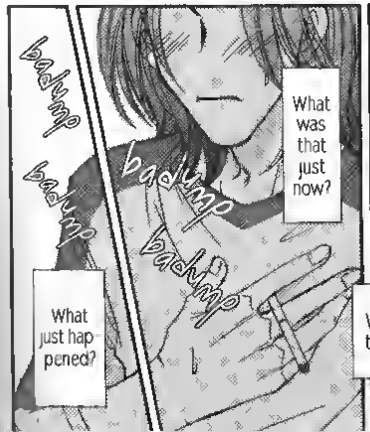
HUH?
YOU HAVE DINNER YET?
AL-MOST FOR-GOT!

clunk
I WASN'T SURE IF I SHOULD USE CILANTRO SO I USED BASIL LEAVES INSTEAD
BASIL CAN BE PRETTY STRONG, SO I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT...
Japanese style fried spring rolls

YOU LIKE BASIL?
BASIL?
YEAH, THIS STUFF

I THOUGHT SO!
NO, NOT YET.
I haven't eaten

badump
...FOR THE SAME REASON YOU MEN-TIONED
...I GUESS
WELL...
HOW COME YOU DON'T HAVE ONE?
I DON'T USE ONE, 'CUZ I CAN'T STAND THEM JINGLING IN MY EAR WHEN I'M ON THE PHONE.


badump
badump
badump
badump
What was that just now?
What just hap-pened?

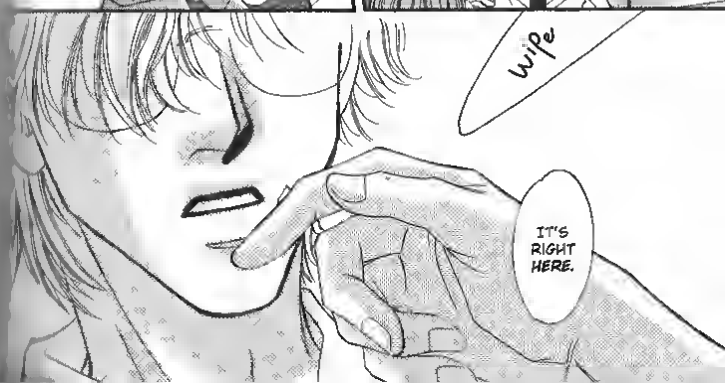
I guess not having a strap makes it hard to reach for it in your bag
But it's still a nuisance
What the-?
...!
Doh
blush

GLAD TO HEAR IT.
IT'S REALLY, REALLY GOOD
clink
PHEW...
I SWEAR YOU ARE SUCH A RIOT!
hahaha
...
WOW, LOOKS INCREDIBLE!
I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE
But...
sark sark sark
growl
Oh!
ALREADY FULL?
YES.
THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL.
HOW IS IT?
munch munch munch munch
No, what a hoot.
ANYWAY, EAT UP.
Try some chili sauce and sweet miso paste.
Erm...
HERE'S YOUR PLATE.

THERE
GOT IT
lick
blurush

You're beet red!
WHAT ARE YOU BLUSH-ING ABOUT?
WHA-?
S-Sor-ry!

HEY.
YOU'VE GOT SOME FOOD ON THE SIDE OF YOUR MOUTH
HUH?
HERE?
wipe
NO, NOT THERE!
YOUR OTHER LEFT!
sheesh
LET ME SEE
TO THE LEFT!
? ?


wipe
IT'S RIGHT HERE.

YOU'RE THE ONE LICKING STUFF OFF PEOPLE'S FACES!
THAT'S IT? THAT'S WHAT'S GETTING TO YOU?!
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T DONE IT BEFORE!
And I've licked far worse things!
It's
It's not the same!
IT'S JUST...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT.
lick
YOU HAD SOME THERE, TOO
LIAR.
TRUE
IT WAS A LIE.
For some reason...

sigh
What's this feeling?
It's like my entire body has a fever.
clatch
clink
clink
...I can't even walk straight.
clatch
So hot...

clomp
clomp
clomp
...I wanted to...
...kiss him so badly.

OH
YEAH, I DID.
IT BELONGED TO THE GUY NEXT TO ME, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT
WE APOLOGIZED AND SWAPPED PHONES
flop
THAT SO?

S-SORRY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
WHAT?
THE BATH'S ALREADY FULL,
SO YOU GO ON IN.

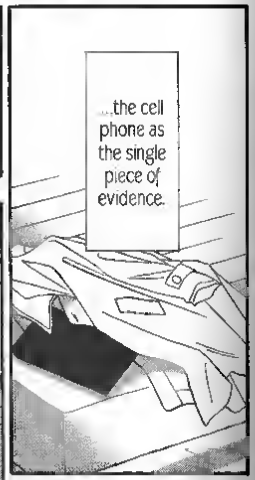
WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO FOR DINNER?
I could whip up something for you.
OH, UH...
I ALREADY ATE.
I SEE.

T-TAKASHI?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DO YOU HAVE TONIGHT OFF?
BINGO.

HUH?
HOW'D THAT CELL PHONE BUSINESS WORK OUT?
DID YOU FIND OUT WHOSE IT WAS?

WELCOME HOME, ARATA!

...all I discovered was that he hadn't slept in his bed that night.
I checked Arata's room after he left, but...
Which only leaves...
No suspicious e-mails either
There weren't any revealing Web sites or bookmarks on his laptop
JEEZ.
I TAKE MY EYES OFF HIM FOR ONE MINUTE, AND WHAT DOES HE GET HIMSELF INTO?



Now to find out...

...who that man on the phone this morning was...

HM.
are all from this address
be sides the ones from me
The only e-mails he got over the last few months.
Takashi
K-YNG@jp t.ne.jp
But there's something about this address
YANAGI
09055XX74XX
K-YNG@jp t.ne.jp
beep beep beep
Now to check any incoming calls
I feel like I've seen it somewhere before
sigh
Your hair smells like cigarette
flap
Heh heh heh
ARATA.
IF YOU WANT TO HIDE SOMETHING FROM ME, YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO ERASE YOUR RECORDS
beep beep beep beep beep
bluuush
...
jjiyus

FOMA
Yanagi Kohshi
09055XX74XX
mail: KYNG@jp-t.ne.jp
KOHSHI?!
...A VERY SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT...
THIS IS BECOMING ...

FOMA
Yanagi Kohshi
09055XX74XX
mail: KYNG@jp-t.ne.jp
rustle
KOHSHI?
"YANAGI"?
This phone number!
beep beep beep
Takeuchi's cell phone
FOMA

Raw Spring Roll

I totally didn't notice while I was drawing them but you usually serve them already cut. See I usually eat them uncut at home so somebody (my assistant) had to tell me the right way to do it. How unlady-like of me. (T&T) But then again, this is what men usually make for themselves, so does that mean it's okay? (Laughs)

WATCH OUT.
YOUR HAIR'S STILL DRIPPING WET.
Scrub
Scrub
Scrub
Whoa!
TH-
THANKS
WELL, I'M TAKING OFF NOW.
MAKE SURE TO DRY YOUR HAIR COMPLETELY BEFORE GOING TO BED.
I KNOW THAT!
OH,
YEAH, TAKE CARE.

HUH?
TAKASHI, YOU'RE GOING OUT?
YUP.
IT'S TOO BORING TO LAZE AROUND THE HOUSE
I WAS THINKING OF GOING OUT FOR A DRINK.
AT THIS HOUR?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THIS HOUR"?
HUH?
IT'S STILL HARDLY NIGHTTIME!
OH.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DIDN'T ... NOTICE.

jingle jingle
creak
TEN-CHAN, IS THAT YOU?
MY GOODNESS, IT'S BEEN AGES!
SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!♡
When did he sneak in and take my Arata from me?
OPEN
Those were hickeys on his chest.
clomp
clomp
clomp
bam
DAMN IT!
Konishi, that bastard...

WHAT'S WITH THE ATTI-TUDE?!
HERE I WAS HAPPY YOU WERE BACK, BUT YOU'RE ALL SNAPPY!
I don't like it one bit!
Huh?!
YOU DOWNED THAT IN ONE GULP?!
That's some heavy liquor, mind you!
SAVE IT, AND GET ME ANOTHER ONE!
thump
HIT ME AGAIN
HERE YOU GO!
thud
FINE, FINE
WHAT'S GOT YOUR PANTIES IN A KNOT?
GET ME A GIN LIME
GIN LIME! NOW!
YOU'RE ACTUALLY HERE TO DRINK? THAT'S NEW
GOOD
thud
HERE'S YOUR DRINK, SIR!
clink
Now to plan my next course of action
clink
gluuug

I ACTUALLY CAME TO SEE YOU, AKKUN, SO CHEER UP.
GREAT, LET'S SHARE A DRINK!
I'LL BUY A FULL BOTTLE!
What? ♡ Really?!
twinkle
I'M NOT UPSET.
AS LONG AS YOU APOLOGIZE, I FORGIVE YOU
OKAY?
Hmph! It's so boring without more customers
Office
If I'm going to get any information...
HEY, AKKUN?
I only happened to meet Kohshi here in the gay district and swapped numbers because we hit it off.
I have no idea what he's been up to lately.
lick
Arthur Conan Doyle
Yay! Let's pop this one open.
kyaa!
kyaa!
Jasa!
KEEP TALKING SO LOUD, AND YOU'RE GONNA START LOSING CUSTOMERS
WHOA, WATCH IT
How true. haha
Mm-hmmm! ♡
The booze always tastes so good when someone else is paying! ♡
Oooh!
I'M JUST A LITTLE STRESSED OUT.
LOOK, I'M REALLY SORRY. ABOUT HOW I WAS ACTING BEFORE.
Humph!
THEN, WHAT?!
What would please you, Tom-Chan? Do you want to talk to little star Akiwatson?
NO, NO.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
ANOTHER REFILL?

WHY DON'T WE CALL KOHSHI-KUN OUT HERE TO JOIN US?!
Aha! THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!♡
THAT REMINDS ME... I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM HERE MUCH, EITHER.
THAT WASN'T THE BARPING BEAUTY, WAS IT?
NO, NOT THAT ONE
Right? Don't you think?!
Yes yes! That's a splendid idea!♡
Nice thinking, Akkun.
SURE I'M UP FOR IT.
BUT HE HASN'T BEEN COMING IN LATELY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
HE DRINKS SO MUCH WHEN HE'S HERE, AND HE LETS ME DRINK, TOO! ♡ SUCH A GENEROUS BOY ♡
YEAH! HIM!
TRUST ME, IT'LL BE FINE. ALL WHO VISIT ARE KIND AND GOOD-HEARTED PEOPLE.
RIGHT.
Yup. THE LAST TIME WAS ABOUT A MONTH AGO
AFTER HE TOOK HOME ONE OF MY NEW WAITERS, HE HASN'T BEEN BACK!
REALLY?
LIKE . . . KOHSHI, PERHAPS?

UH...
YEAH
LONG TIME NO SEE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
Yaya!
Kohshi-kun, welcome!
And you shouldn't take me for an answer
WHAT'S UP, AKKUN?
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY CALL ME?
Jingle
TEN?
HUH?
DROP THE CUTESY ACT
WE MISSED YOU!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN FOREVER!
What do you expect?
twirl
twirl
HUH?
UH, LET'S SEE.
WHAT'LL IT BE, KOHSHI-KUN?
YEAH.
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DROPPING BY HERE MUCH
BEEN BUSY?

Something about a steamy sex life?!
What, what, what?!
clatter
haha
Fill me in!
LIKE, MAYBE SOMETHING IN YOUR SEX LIFE?
badump
Damn it
AKKUN...
Oh, yeah?
You did?
IF THERE WERE, YOU KNOW I'D BE TALKING ALL ABOUT IT!
NOTHING'S HAPPENING.
SORRY, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING AGAIN?
I WAS ASKING HOW YOU'VE BEEN DOING LATELY.
pfft!
Another latte!
Okay!
I'LL GO WITH A HARPER, THEN.
I THINK SOMETHING HAPPENED, AND YOU'RE NOT TELLING.
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT PAUSE FOR?
WHAT?
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
HMM.
I'VE BEEN...
...
...FINE, I GUESS.

KOHSHI?
—...!
KOHSHI-KUN. WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
YOU KNOCKED OVER A GLASS!
OH
S-SORRY

CRASH
GOODIE!
AND LOOK! I BROUGHT A NEW CUSTOMER!
BIG MAMA! WELCOME BACK!
I'M HOO-OOME!
Jingle Jingle
ACTUALLY, YES! SEE I-
HOW ABOUT YOU, AKKUN?
Any news?
GOOD EVENING
SO I DRAGGED HIM HERE!
AND I COULDN'T LET SUCH A FAMILIAR FACE GO,
WE RAN STRAIGHT INTO EACH OTHER OUT ON THE STREET!
ISN'T HE A LOOKER?
HIS NAME IS KASHI-WAGI-SAN-
GOODNESS ME!♡ WELCOME!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T KOHSHI!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
NAOTO-SAN..
A LONG TIME AGO
...!
WELL, I'M SURE YOU HAVE TONS TO CATCH UP ON!
LET'S SETTLE DOWN AND HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
I'M IN!
SORRY.
KOHSHI-KUN, YOU MEAN YOU KNOW THIS MAN?
I HAD NO IDEA YOU TWO WERE FRIENDS!
WE WERE
What? What for?!
...HAVE TO GET HOME.
BUT I REALLY...
WHAAAAT?
No fair!
I HAVE AN EARLY APPOINTMENT TOMORROW.
HEY, DON'T FORGET YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CALLED ME OUT OF THE BLUE TO COME DOWN HERE

clomp clomp clomp
BGM
Jingle Jingle
...
LATER
YEAH MAYBE

The nerve!
GO ON, KASHIWAGI-SAN! SAY SOMETHING!
You've missed him too, right?
SORRY, EVERYONE, BUT I HAVE TO BE LEAVING
YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT
WHO CARES ABOUT SOME DUMB APPOINTMENT
Just cancel it!
WELL...

Of course I'm sure!
YOU SURE?
Look like we'll have to finish it Kashi-kun's bottle without him
Kyahahaha!

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
TEN-CHAN!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE REST OF US CAN'T HAVE A GOOD TIME!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
WHAT A TOTAL BUMMER!
Kohshi-kun can be so heartless!

I'M SURE WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME CATCHING UP NEXT TIME
BUT NOW THAT I'VE TRANS-FERRED BACK TO A NEARBY OFFICE,
IT IS A SHAME SINCE I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SO LONG

NOW I'M CURIOUS.
I get the feeling...
WOW, THAT IS A LONG TIME.
MAYBE FIVE OR SIX YEARS BACK
...this is going to be very...
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
KOHSHI?
OR ME?
ABOUT WHO?
heh

...he must have some history with this man.
SO... YOU KNOW KOHSHI?
YUP.
SINCE WHEN?
The way Kohshi freaked earlier...
clatter
SURE THING! LEAVE IT TO ME!♡
COULD YOU GET ME ANOTHER DRINK, AKKUN?
YES, AND YOU ARE...?
KASHIWAGI-SAN, WAS IT?
YOU CAN CALL ME "TEN."
OKAY, TEN-KUN
A PLEASURE MEETING YOU
grin

clomp
clomp
clomp
clomp
BOTH OF YOU
smirk
...interesting.
Kashiwagi...
...get back here?
When did he...
He moved to the coast four years ago, and I thought that'd be the end of him.
OH!
THUD
SHH
MY BAD.
SORRY.
HEY, WATCH IT!
Damn it.
Seeing him again has gotten me all wound up.
Haah...

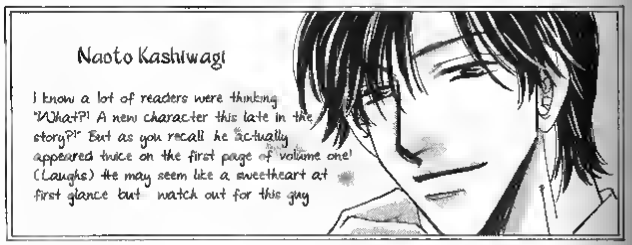
...!
Huh?
Stop it
That was a long time ago
It's over
Nothing I do will ever change what happened
Hey, kid
What are you doing here by yourself?

It's too late for that.
MMPH!
slip
huff!
AAH!
creak
creak
AH!
AH!
AH!
creak
creak
MM
slick
Heh heh...
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT THIS
THANKS
YEAH?
huff!
huff!
COME ON
YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU?
IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT DURING SEX?
MM
DID YOU DO THIS WITH KOUSHI, TOO?

breath

I WAS HIS FIRST FUCK
AFTER ALL,
I GUESS SO

At that point, my parents were already too busy with work to come home much
I had a friend I could call my "best friend," but
Of course I got...
...to any...about my p...
I couldn't understand what it meant
I was having crushes on the hot *boys* in my class, not the *girls*.
What I mean is...

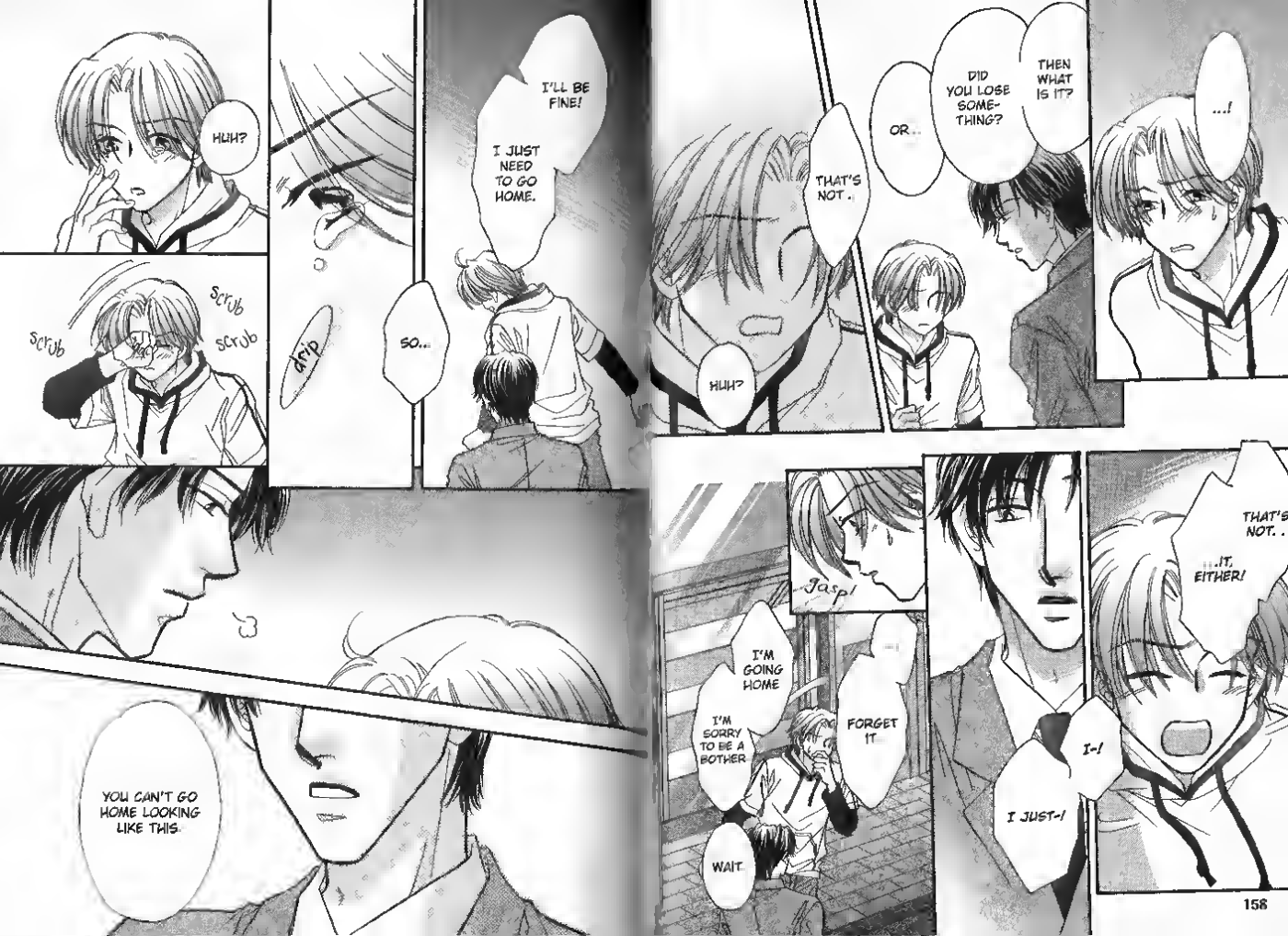

Naoto Kashiwagi
I know a lot of readers were thinking "What?! A new character this late in the story?!" But as you recall he actually appeared twice on the first page of volume one! (Laughs) He may seem like a sweetheart at first glance but watch out for this guy

I was still only in junior high at the time,
and I was confused about my sexual orientation
The first time I met Kashiwagi was six years ago

Exhausted, I sat down on the sidewalk
But I ended up chickening out and just wandering around the train station
At least, that's what I was hoping for
I was sure I'd find ...others like me whom I could talk to
and that's when Kashiwagi first spoke to me
What are you doing here by yourself?
I felt like I was losing my mind...
...from all the shame, guilt, and self-loathing
I didn't know what to do
...that I was having wet dreams about him night after night
...I knew the way he'd look at me if he ever found out...
So there was obviously no way for me to tell him.
Then one night,
I summoned up the courage to visit Tokyo's gay district that I'd read about once in a book

BY THE LOOKS OF YOU, YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE A RUNAWAY.
AND WHEN I CAME BACK FOR ANOTHER DRINK, YOU'RE STILL HERE
WHEN I PASSED BY HERE TWO HOURS AGO
I SAW YOU WANDERING AROUND RIGHT OVER THERE.
back up
I'M NOT HERE FOR THAT!
!
AND IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SELL, YOU SHOULD TRY FURTHER DOWN THAT WAY.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO BE PICKED UP, NO ONE PASSES BY HERE.

HUH?
WELL?
...
YOU'VE BEEN LOITERING AROUND HERE FOR THE PAST FEW HOURS.
At first, I was cautious
N-
NO, I WASN'T!
LIKE I'M GOING TO BELIEVE THAT.
He was completely different from the stereotype I'd envisioned in my head


HUH?
I'LL BE FINE!
I JUST NEED TO GO HOME.
SO..
drip
scrub
scrub
scrub
YOU CAN'T GO HOME LOOKING LIKE THIS.
HUH?
THAT'S NOT..
OR..
DID YOU LOSE SOMETHING?
THEN WHAT IS IT?
...!
Jasp
I'M GOING HOME
I'M SORRY TO BE A BOTHER
WAIT
FORGET IT
I-!
I JUST-!
THAT'S NOT...
...IT, EITHER!

And so I finally let out
every thing that I'd been holding inside
all on my own
It just hurt too much to bear the weight of my problems.
It didn't matter who I talked to
mod
SO?
ARE YOU READY TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
...

So I ended up going with him
PURI☆PURI
Open
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME FOR A WHILE?
SORRY
I DON'T KNOW MANY OTHER PLACES THAT ARE OPEN SO LATE
NO
IT'S OKAY
!!!
wave
look
gulp!

BUT YOU DON'T LOOK IT AT ALL!
YES WAY
EH?!
REALLY ?!
WHAT ?!
..!
NO WAY!
Ha!
AND WHAT AM I... SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE?
YOU'RE HANDSOME, KASHIWAGI-SAN
LIKE A CELEBRITY
I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE...
BESIDES,
You've been watching too much television
THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT, TOO
OR TALK LIKE A GIRL
DRESS UP LIKE A GIRL AND WEAR MAKEUP?
I-I DUNNO

To me, Kashiwagi was like a savior.
AHA
I SEE
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
flick
SO DO I
...
twitch
YOU LIKE BOYS?

tap
tap
MISTAKING IT?
HUH?
IT'S COMMON FOR THIS TO HAPPEN DURING PUBERTY.
YOU MIGHT BE MISTAKING FRIENDSHIP WITH FEELINGS OF LOVE.
It's not wrong?
SO, HAVE YOU EVER...
...GONE OUT WITH A GIRL?
AND DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING WRONG OR EVIL.
BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW YOU LOOK OR DRESS.
WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE
WELL, THANKS I GUESS.
grin
HUH?
IT'S POSSIBLE YOU'RE MISTAKEN
EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE GAY.
CAN THAT HAPPEN?
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
IT'S LIKE HAVING A TEMPORARY FEVER.
YUP
ONCE YOU GET THROUGH PUBERTY, THINGS WILL CALM RIGHT DOWN.
...I WAS MORE COMFORTABLE HAVING THEM...
ONLY AS FRIENDS.
A FEW OF THEM HAVE ASKED ME OUT, BUT...
shake shake
WELL...

OR BETTER YET, YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW FOR SURE IF YOU CAN EVEN DO IT WITH A MAN
YOUR CRUSH ON YOUR BEST FRIEND... MIGHT NOT BE THE REAL THING
HUH?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE SURE?
IT CAN EVEN IF YOU GET PRETTY FAR ALONG WITH IT, YOU COULD SUDDENLY BE TURNED OFF AFTER SEEING A PENIS
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE
EXACTLY. SO,
B- BUT...
IF YOU EVER START FEELING UNCOM-FORT-ABLE JUST SAY THE WORD, AND I'LL STOP

FINE. SEE IF I CARE
CRIMES?
Heh
We got the go-ahead.
COME WITH ME
I'M JUST GIVING HIM A LESSON IN SEX EDUCATION.
I DO
LOU-SAN, CAN WE BORROW YOUR BACK ROOM?
I CAN'T SAY I CONDONE CRIMES IN MY PLACE
SO?
WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?

Um
Sorry to bother you. It's me, Arata
beep
YEAH?
YEAH, YEAH
I'm coming
ding dooong
scratch scratch
HUH?
clatch
Stupid. That happened so long ago
...
dooop
sigh
—!
jolt

...!!!
I KNOW, I KNOW.
YOU WANT TO CALL ME STUPID AND FORGETFUL, RIGHT?
That I take my cell phone but forget my bus pass holder
AHA
YOU BEAT ME TO IT.
JUST KIDDING.
HERE, COME ON IN
OH.
IS THAT ALL?
IT'S MY BUS PASS HOLDER.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE
PFFH
YOU'RE SO-
We were in the living room yesterday...
tmp
tmp
tmp
I WAS WORRIED SOMETHING MIGHT BE WRONG.
I TRIED CALLING YOU OVER AND OVER...
BUT KEPT GETTING VOICE MAIL
I'M GLAD
THAT YOU'RE HERE.
SORRY. I KNOW WE DIDN'T HAVE AN ARRANGE-MENT, BUT...
ARATA?
I THINK I MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN SOMETHING HERE AGAIN.
WELL, I...
WHAT'S UP?
DUDE, IT'S OKAY

D-
Did not!
MAYBE YOU LEFT SOME NAUGHTY MESSAGES FOR ME.
I GET IT NOW
BUT
I'M JUST CHECKING MY MESSAGES.
WHY NOT?

But if he was, that'd make me happy.
Jo-p!
If he wasn't home, no big deal.
Well,
I REALLY NEED TO GET MY BUS PASS HOLDER BACK,
SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY DROPPING IN.

Okay, then
BETTER PLAY THEM OVER AGAIN.
beep
Quit it!
WAAAH!
HUH

I'D NEVER DO THAT.
BUT IT FEELS WEIRD HAVING YOU LISTEN TO THEM RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
It's embarrassing. And...
She's embarrassed by the strangest things.

Y-You don't have to listen to them now!
HUH?

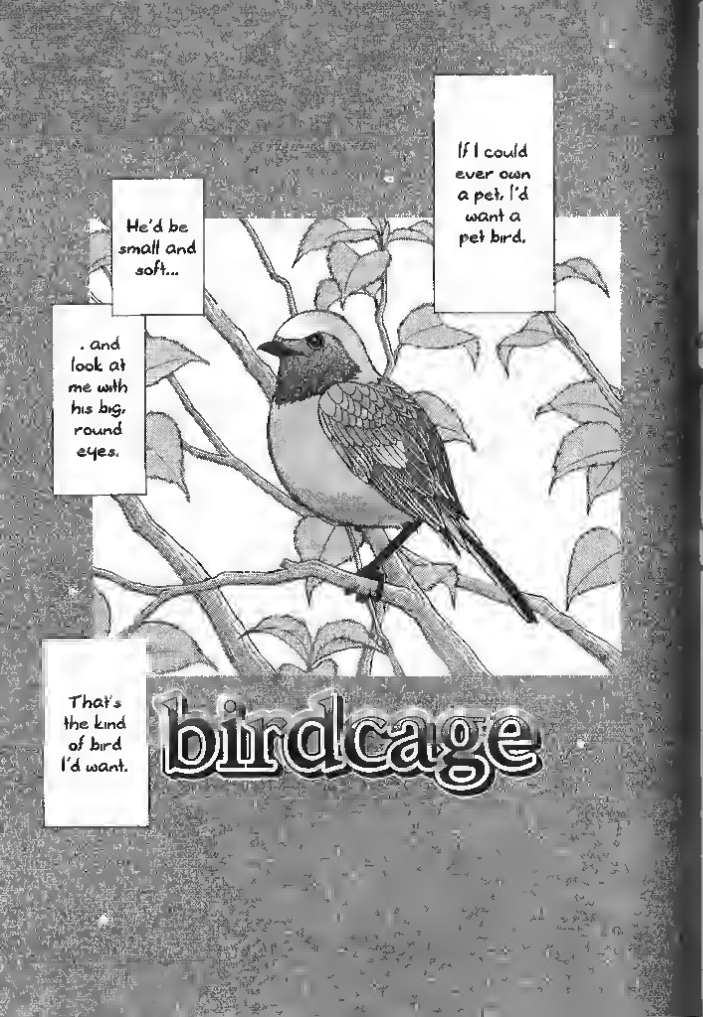
AND THEY'RE ALL FROM YOU.
Jo-p!

YOU'RE RIGHT.
THERE ARE MESSAGES IN MY VOICE MAIL.
What am I thinking?
Whoa!
What was that?!

THREE MESSAGES, HUH?
beep
beep
beep
Sorry! I didn't notice.

YEAH
I'M FINE
JUST FINE
YOU OKAY?
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
OH!
gasp!
S-
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
I MESSED UP AGAIN!
I'm such a klutz!
I'M REALLY
REALLY SORRY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
Whoa!
Whoa!
OOPS!
thud
thud
Uph!
AAAH!
SMACK
OW..
THAT HURT!

AHA
SO THAT'S WHERE IT'S BEEN HIDING.
HUH?
SEE?
YOUR BUS PASS HOLDER.
Fell between the sofa cushions
OH, RIGHT
THIS IS WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR, RIGHT?
THANKS
...?
LIH
shulder
Right Kohshi?
Jump


If I could ever own a pet, I'd want a pet bird.
He'd be small and soft...
. and look at me with his big, round eyes.
That's the kind of bird I'd want.
birdcage

HEY, TEN!
I BROUGHT . THE STUFF.
...
Good.
THE DRUGS?
SHH! NOT SO LOUD, MAN!
haha
SORRY.
Yanagi-kun?
PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

But I've never really thought about owning one.
After all...
chirp!
Catch
...
TAKASHI?
PLEASE DON'T IGNORE ME ANYMORE!
After all,
...
Ignore
TAKASHI!
PLEASE TAKASHI!
I SAID I WAS SORRY!
tmp
tmp
tmp

Hugh!
...
hic!
I guess that's enough
drip
drip
drip
...!
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
I KNOW
I KNOW THAT,
BUT Y-YOU
DON'T HAVE TO BE SO M-MEAN
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROKE YOUR PROMISE WITH ME, ARATA
what would I need another pet for—
—when I already have this cute little thing?
—
LISTEN
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO KNOW
—?
SURE!
WHAT IS IT?
TAKA...
—...!
WHO ARE YOU AGAIN?

AND NOW YOU'VE TRACKED ANIMAL HAIR ALL OVER THE HOUSE!
B-BUT I-!
I WAS GOING TO CHANGE BEFORE I CAME HOME.
IT'S NATURAL TO WANT ONE AFTER SEEING IT.
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO!
BUT NOW IT JUST MAKES YOU WANT ONE MORE, RIGHT?
sigh

WHATEVER
I'M...
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT
THAT'S WHY MOM WAS SNEEZING ALL DAY YESTERDAY!
EVEN IF YOU DID CHANGE, YOUR DIRTY CLOTHES STILL GO INTO THE LAUNDRY BASKET
And mom is the one who washes.

THAT'S WHY WE PROMISED TO WAIT UNTIL WE WERE OLDER AND LEFT HOME.
Pinky swear!
sigh
YOU KNOW MOM IS ALLERGIC TO ANIMAL HAIR.
SO WE COULD NEVER OWN A DOG.
YOU'RE THE MEAN ONE.
YOU WENT OFF TO SEE THAT PUPPY BY YOURSELF!
kaching

So, he went off with Satomi-kun to play with the puppy?
THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S
YEAH, BUT...
I WASN'T GONNA ADOPT HIM.
AND SATOMI-KUN SAID I COULD COME AND LOOK AT IT.
BUT YOU WENT TO SEE A PUPPY THAT WAS UP FOR ADOPTION!
...!

SO IF I TELL YOU NOT TO GO, YOU CAN'T GO. GOT IT?
OKAY.
BUT IF YOU HAVE TO BREAK THE PROMISE, YOU HAVE TO TELL ME FIRST.
OTHERWISE, SOMETHING LIKE YESTERDAY MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN
OKAY.
SO YOU CAN'T GO...
...TO SATOMI-KUN'S PLACE EVER AGAIN TO SEE THE DOG.
I PROMISE.
YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NEVER TO BREAK A PROMISE WITH ME AGAIN!
...
TA-
TAKA-SHI?!
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU, SO GET OUT.
HUH?
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP PROMISES WITH ME,
THEN I DON'T CARE ANYMORE
I'M REALLY SORRY!
I'M SORRY! TAKA-SHI!
NO!
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!
PLEASE!
THEN, CAN YOU KEEP A NEW PROMISE WITH ME?

But
..because he's so cute.
I like to make him cry sometimes, too.
Sorry, Arata.
But I can't ...
..help myself.

GOOD, LET'S SWEAR BY IT
I PRO-MISE
hug
I LOVE YOU, ARATA.
See? Isn't he adorable?
ME TOO..

Editorial Notes

To comply with the laws of the United States, this work has been edited from its original version. Two pages were removed from the dream sequence replaying Yanagi's past encounter with Kashiwagi. In an effort to recapture the missing scenes, the editors have included translations of those two pages here.

These are the thoughts going through Yanagi's head after his younger self accepted Kashiwagi's proposition to have sex with him as a way to test his sexuality and right before he jolted awoke from his dream.

You don't have to ask what happened after that.
I thought it'd be gross, but he swept me up until I was begging for it.

I bet that for Kashiwagi, having a kid like me as a lover was easier than stealing candy from a baby.

That's when I became obsessed with him.
He was a kind man and never once hit me.

Not to mention, he was well-dressed and attractive, too.
What more could you want in a lover?

That's why I had the wrong idea.
I honestly believed we were star-crossed lovers and that I was loved.

Post-Script

■ Hello, everyone!
This is Chifumi Ochi, and you've just finished reading breath volume two. I can't believe it's been an entire year since volume one came out. I know you had to wait a while, but I hope you didn't forget the storyline! (Laughs) In this volume, a lot of things happened— Ten-chan's starting up some trouble, and a man from Yanagi's past was revealed!
Before it felt like Yanagi and Arata's relationship was all forced, but now they're like shy schoolboys. (Laughs)
It was a lot of fun writing the progress of their feelings for each other. Even Akkun got to play a bigger role this time! (He has now a personal favorite. (Laughs))

■ Work-wise, I've started other detailed work outside of making manga, which kept me from working on the book. So I'm so glad I was able to complete the volume and get it out the door.

■ And as for the bonus story I wrote in the back of the book, it's a short vignette of Takashi and Arata's childhood. But when I sent the thumbnails to my editor A-san, she said, "I feel so sorry for Arata." It made me laugh! Ha ha. (T_T) I swear it was the driest laugh I'd ever heard. But she's right. Maybe it was a little too cruel. Still, this explains the foundation of their relationship, so I **had** to write the scene.
If you're eager to find out what Ten-chan's plan is or what role Kashiwagi will play, you'll just have to wait until volume three!
If so, I hope to see you in the postscript section again!

■ So in conclusion, thank you so much for sticking with me for this long. I'm always eager to hear your impressions of the story, so if you're feeling up to it, drop me a line. I'll be waiting.

Until we meet again in volume three!

2004 02
Chifumi Ochi

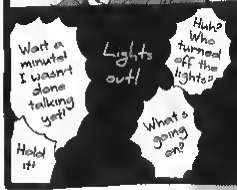
Special Thanks

YUKI KOJIMA, HIROMI NAKANE, KAZUE KOMATSU, MIKA ASHIHARA

EDITOR
YUKIKO A! & everyone who read this book!!

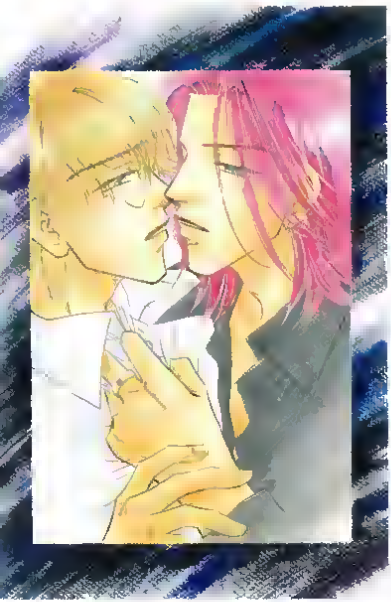
http://piracle.milky-web.net/

Akkun's Secret Garden



Sorry, Akkun, but I only had one page for the postscript.

breath



Yanagi and Arata s encounter started off as a simple pick up at a bar but Arata – who balks at homosexual sex – upsets Yanagi to the point of being blackmailed into a sex-stave relationship It is Arata s charming and innocent personality, however that breaks through Yanagi s resolve, and deeper feelings begin to form between them Just then, Yanagi s sex fnend and Arata s younger twin brother Takashi, notices Arata s strange behavior –

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RATING
MA
18+

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